

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 3-KS-07-12

Issued at: Fairbanks, Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 21, 2012

Expiration Date: Friday, August 31, 2012, unless
superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon in all flowing waters of the Tanana River drainage effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 21, 2012. The use of bait in all tributaries of the Tanana River drainage is also prohibited.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area. (b)(1) and (d)(2), (5)(B), (15), (16)(B), and (18) are superseded and (d)(22) is added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 21, 2012:

5 AAC 74.010. SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, AND MEHTODS AND MEANS FOR THE TANANA RIVER AREA.

(b)(1) king salmon may not be retained or possessed. King salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

(d) In the Tanana River Management Area, the following special provisions to methods and means apply:

(22) in all flowing waters of the Tanana River tributaries the use of bait is prohibited.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

by delegation to: Tom Taube
Tom Taube
Regional Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Monitoring projects in the Yukon and Tanana indicate that the 2012 king salmon run to the Tanana River, like that to the Yukon River, is low. All king salmon escapement monitoring projects in the Yukon River drainage have estimated fish passage below the historical average for this date. The current cumulative passage estimate of 104,000 king salmon is well below the historical average for late run timing and the projected total run will likely be at the lower end of the preseason estimate of 109,000 or lower.

As of July 17, only 446 king salmon have passed the counting tower on the Chena River, and the Salcha River and Goodpaster River counting towers have only just become operational due to high and turbid water conditions. The Chena River king salmon counts are the second lowest for this date since 1993. The escapement projection, based on current counts, indicate the lower end of the escapement goal (2,800 – 5,700 king salmon) may not be achieved.

This action closing the Tanana River king salmon sport fisheries to retention is consistent with measures that have been taken throughout the Yukon and Tanana river drainages to conserve king salmon and is necessary to meet the escapement goal for king salmon in the Chena and Salcha rivers.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region III Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701, (907) 459-7228.